

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, reconsideration of the instant application, as amended herewith, is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Claims 1-16 are presently pending before the Office. No claims have been canceled. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. Applicant is not intending in any manner to narrow the scope of the originally filed claims.

The Examiner's Action mailed June 16, 2006 and the references cited therein have been carefully studied by Applicant and the undersigned counsel. The amendments appearing herein and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Relying on 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16 as being anticipated by Martin. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration.

Applicant respectfully submits that it is important to note that, historically, the Office and the Federal Circuit has required that for a §102 anticipation, a single reference must teach (i.e., identically describe) each and every element of the rejected claim. The Office has steadfastly and properly maintained that view.

The cited reference fails this test as discussed below.

The present invention relates to a pyrophosphoric acid bath for applying copper-tin alloy plating onto an article.

As the specification describes in page 21, lines 16-21 that “the article to be plated is not particularly limited and any article to which can be applied may be used. Examples of such articles include metal materials such as iron, steel, copper, and brass, or articles made of ceramic or plastic materials to which any kind of metal plating has been preliminarily applied, etc.” the copper-tin-alloy plating is applied onto such an article by using the pyrophosphoric acid bath.

The present invention is characterized by that Additive (A) consisting of an amine derivative, epihalohydrin and glycidyl ether compound is added to the pyrophosphoric acid bath for copper-tin alloy plating. By allowing the bath to contain Additive (A), the present invention can solve the problem with conventional pyrophosphoric acid bath that the optimum range of the current density is very narrow as compared with that of the cyanogens-based copper-tin alloy plating bath. Particularly, the present invention has the effect of broadening the gloss range on the low current density side and enabling production of plated articles with uniform color tone and appearance and with high yield even by barrel plating. (See specification page 4, line 6 to page 5, line 8.)

In contrast, the Martin reference, which relates to a resin coating applied onto metal substrates, does not involve copper-tin plating. Therefore, the present invention, which relates to a pyrophosphoric acid bath for copper-tin plating applied onto articles as described below, is different from the invention of the Martin reference.

For the purpose of further clarifying the difference from the Martin reference, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to claim a basic composition of the pyrophosphoric acid bath for tin-copper alloy plating. Such a basic composition is described in the specification on page 8, lines

1-4 as "the fundamental bath composition of the pyrophosphoric acid bath of the present invention contains an alkali metal pyrophosphate (potassium salt or sodium salt) for forming a water-soluble complex salt with a copper ion and a tin ion."

Therefore, the present invention is not described in the Martin reference and the reference clearly can not anticipate the present invention as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 have not been anticipated by the Martin reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and respectfully requests that such rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

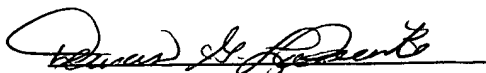
Even though the initial claims in this important patent application were drawn to a new, useful and nonobvious invention, they have now been amended to increase their specificity of language. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 are patentable over the art of record.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 943-9300 would be appreciated.

Very respectfully,

Dated: 9/12/06


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